



















NEXT THING YOU KNOW,  
YOUR PALS AREN'T SO COOL  
ANYMORE. AND THEY  
REALLY DON'T SEEM  
WORTH A SWEET GIRL  
GETTING HURT OVER.

MAYBE  
YOU EVEN  
SAVE THE  
DAY!

WHAT'RE  
YOU TALKING  
ABOUT?

I'M JUST TRYING TO  
STREAMLINE THINGS FOR  
YOU. SAVE SOME TIME.

STILL  
OUT COLD...  
WAGES.

Y-YOU DON'T  
KNOW ME.

COME ON, YOU SMELL  
MORE PANICKY THAN  
I DID. THAT'S WHY I  
TRUSTED YOU IN  
THE ALLEY. I  
THOUGHT MAYBE  
YOU'D ALREADY  
SWITCHED  
SIDES.

YOU'RE A  
CLASSIC  
"SWITCH  
SIDES"  
KIND OF  
CHARACTER.

NO I'M  
NO--

SWEK!!

SWITCH SIDES  
OR I'LL KICK  
YOUR ASS!!



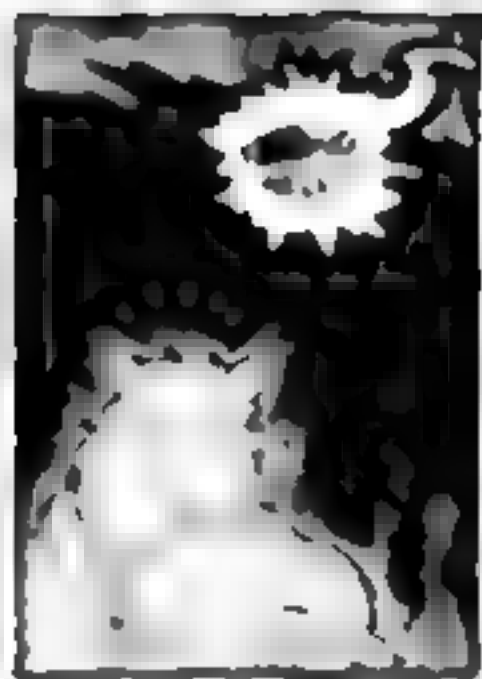














-GASP!

STOP  
FIGHTING!!

NO, CRYSTAL!  
HE DOESN'T  
DESERVE  
YOU!!

WOLF!

HE'S A LIAR AND A  
MONSTER, AND I  
WILL NOT LET HIM  
GET AWAY WITH  
THIS!!

BUT SANDRA,  
THE WOLF IS  
MELTING!!

WHAT?















WHAT NOW.

I'M NOT  
COMING FOR  
CHRISTMAS.

I'M SORRY, I JUST  
CAN'T THERE'S TOO  
MUCH TO DO HERE,  
AND I CAN'T FIT  
THE TRIP INTO  
OUR BUDGET.

MOM...  
DON'T  
COME  
OVER.

BECAUSE I DON'T WANT  
YOU TO GO THROUGH ALL  
THAT TROUBLE FOR ME. I  
REALLY DON'T AND LIKE I  
SAID, IT'S HECTIC OVER HERE,  
AND IT'D BE HARD ON ALL  
OF US

I'M  
SORRY.

I MISS  
YOU TOO.

BUT I  
JUST  
CAN'T.

YES, THERE IS MORE TO IT. I'M NOT IN TROUBLE. I'M DOING FINE. BUT I JUST CAN'T SEE YOU RIGHT NOW.

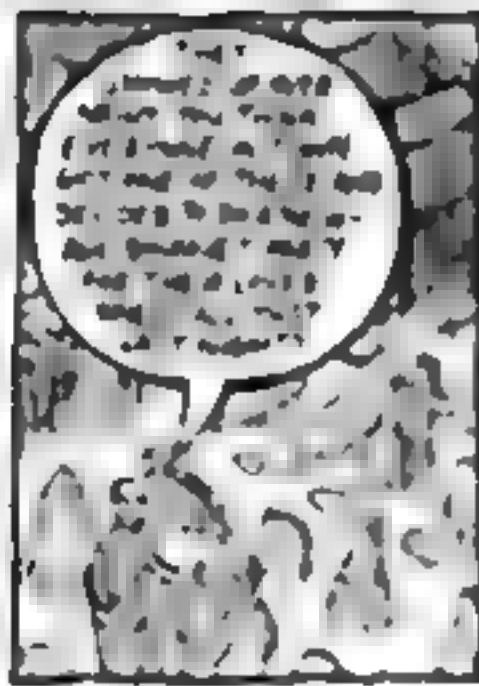


NO. IT'S NOTHING YOU DID. IT'S JUST ME. IT'S LIKE A PHASE. I NEED TO BE ALONE FOR A WHILE. I KNOW THIS IS HARD ON YOU, BUT I HAVE TO GO WITH THIS. PLEASE.



I'M SORRY. GIVE EVERYONE MY LOVE.







WHAT IN. ?

JACK?  
WHAT'S  
WRONG?

I HATE  
KEEPING SE-  
CRETS. ESPECIALLY  
FROM PEOPLE  
I CARE  
ABOUT

WOULD YOU LIKE  
TO TALK? I'M NO  
DIARY, BUT I  
WON'T TELL,  
EITHER

IT'S JUST..  
SANDRA'S SO  
DAMN SMART.  
SHE KEEPS  
ASKING  
QUESTIONS.

WHAT  
DON'T YOU  
WANT TO  
TELL HER?

WELL, YOU KNOW.  
I WOULD LOVE TO  
KEEP HER FROM  
FLAMING ME,  
BUT I  
DON'T.

IT  
ASSUAGES  
YOUR  
GUILT.

YEAH, BUT  
ALSO. I'M NOT  
SURE WE CAN  
AFFORD FOR  
HER NOT TO.

WHEN IT HAPPENS,  
I.. SENSE A KIND OF  
RELIEF A WAVE OF CALM  
EMANATING FROM HER  
SUBCONSCIOUS, LIKE...  
COMING UP FOR AIR.

I DON'T UNDER-  
STAND WHAT YOU'RE  
GETTING AT

THERE'S  
A SAYING.  
'BIRDS  
GOTTA FLY,  
FISH GOTTA  
SWIM.'



ARE YOU THINK-  
ING OF TURNING  
HER INTO AN  
ANIMAL??

OF COURSE  
I AM!

I  
THOUGHT  
YOU WANTED  
HER TO BE  
HUMAN

HUMANS ARE ANIMALS  
CHANGING A GIRL INTO A  
FOX-GIRL ISN'T SO HARD  
-IT'S LIKE DRAWING  
OVER A PENCIL SKETCH. BUT WITH  
SANDRA, IT'S  
LIKE TRYING  
TO TURN A  
PENCIL SKETCH  
INTO A PHOTO-  
GRAPH

AND SHEESH, IF I EVER  
DO MANAGE SUCH A SPELL,  
I STILL HAVE TO FIGURE  
OUT HOW TO MAKE IT  
WORK ON HER! MOST  
CASUAL MAGIC HITS  
DEMONS LIKE WATER  
OFF A DUCK'S  
BACK

THIS  
COULD BE A  
PROBLEM FOR A  
LONG TIME MORE  
SO THAN I WANT  
SANDRA TO KNOW

YOU WANT TO  
TURN HER INTO  
A DUCK?







SO YOU'RE A  
GOTH. HOW IS  
THAT FOR  
YOU?

I  
ACTUALLY,  
I'M NOT A  
GOTH. I JUST  
WEAR MAKEUP  
TO COVER MY  
SCARS.

OH WWW YOU  
WERE N AN  
ACCIDENT

YEAH  
IT MAKES  
PEOPLE  
UNCOMFORTABLE  
...IT MAKES  
ME UN-  
COMFORTABLE

WELL THEN SCREW  
IT HOW ABOUT YOUR  
TRENCHCOAT? IS THAT  
COMFORTABLE? DO  
YOU WEAR IT AT  
HOME?

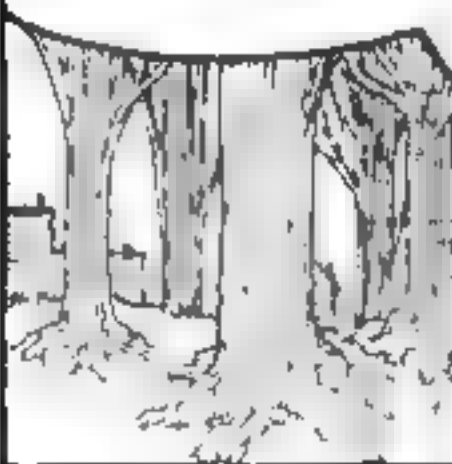
NOT  
INDOORS  
BUT IT IS  
COMFY.

NOW  
SHE REALLY  
BEGINS TO  
OPEN  
UP

WE'RE  
AT THE  
FOREST,  
GUYS!



ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF OUR TOWN IS A FOREST. A PEACEFUL SWATH OF LAND, POPULAR WITH HIKERS AND CHILDREN AT PLAY.. OR, IT USED TO BE.



A SHORT TIME AGO, SOMETHING HAPPENED IN THESE WOODS. SOMETHING STRANGE. MONSTROUS NOISES ECHOED THROUGHOUT THE TOWN. SOME SWEAR THEY HEARD WOLVES HOWLING. OTHERS HEARD THE VIOLENT CRASHING OF TREES.



STILL OTHERS SAW STRANGE LIGHTS, A FOREST FIRE ILLUMINATING DARK SHAPES... MASSIVE, TERRIFYING FORMS WRITHING AGAINST THE TREES AND FLYING THROUGH THE AIR.



I WOULD LIKE TO REMIND OUR AUDIENCE THAT BLAIR WITCH JOKES AT THIS POINT WOULD BE OVERLY OBVIOUS AND PASSE.



SOME THING DID  
HAPPEN THAT  
MUCH IS  
CERTAIN.

TREES ARE  
BURNED TRUNKS  
ARE SMASHED APART  
AND AT PLACES TOO  
MUCH FOR A HUMAN TO  
REACH AN OLD SHED  
BLOWN APART  
WITHOUT  
FIRE.

RESIDUE BLACK  
AND VISCIOUS SUNK  
INTO THE GROUND—  
A STRANGE ORGANIC  
COMPOUND YET TO  
BE IDENTIFIED.

AND  
BLOOD  
ANIMAL BLOOD  
SCATTERED  
AROUND THE  
GROUND—ALSO UN-  
IDENTIFIED WITH  
NO SIGN OF THE  
ANIMAL'S REMAINS

THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES,  
NOT BEING OF THE "COVER-UP"  
VARIETY HAVE FREELY ADMIT-  
TED THAT THEY HAVE NO  
EXPLANATION FOR THESE  
EVENTS. DEBATE IS RAGING  
OVER WHETHER PARA-  
NORMAL OR PSYCHIC  
INVESTIGATORS SHOULD  
BE CONSULTED.

AND THESE NEWLY-  
HAUNTED WOODS WHOSE  
BRANCHES SEEM A LITTLE  
SHARPER WHOSE SHADOWS  
ARE EVER MORE FORTHOODING  
ARE JUST A SYMPTOM OF  
THE ORGANS CREEPING  
OVER OUR TOWN...

THE SPARKY  
BURY DARKNESS  
MAKING DON  
WE T'EM, HE  
SO SCARED.

CUT!

SO, SHE  
REALLY  
OPENS  
UP?

OH RIGHT  
RIGHT SHE  
SAYS TO ME,  
SHE SAYS..

LISTEN, I'M NOT  
STUPID, OR CRAZY. I  
JUST NEEDED TO TALK  
TO SOMEONE "DOWN TO  
EARTH." TO REMIND ME  
I'M STILL LIVING  
THERE

I HOPE  
THAT DOESN'T  
SOUND STUPID  
OR CRAZY. I  
CAN'T TELL  
THE DIFFERENCE  
ANYMORE

NO, I HEAR YOU.  
THE WHOLE STUPID  
TOWN'S GOING CRAZY,  
ISN'T IT? MONSTER  
SIGHTINGS, HAUNT-  
ED HOUSES..

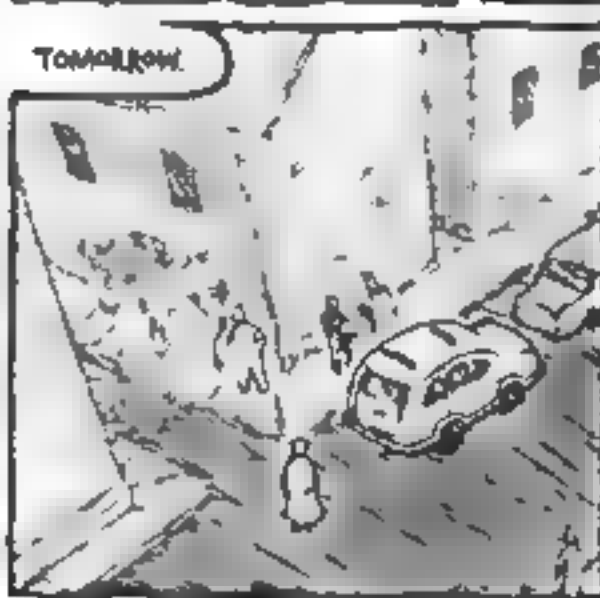
HAUNTED  
HOUSES?

SUPPOSEDLY  
WELL, ONE  
ANYWAY. MY  
CREW'LL BE GOING  
THERE LATER TODAY!

WE'RE  
HERE!

IS IT?









JM...  
HELLOOO..?

DO YOU WANT  
TO START THE  
CONVERSATION  
THIS  
TIME?

RRHN

SANDRA?  
ARE YOU  
OKAY?

WHA... JEN' HI!  
...WHERE'D  
YOU COME  
FROM??

I.. CAME  
FROM  
RIGHT  
HERE

I WAS  
GOING TO  
THE COFFEE-  
SHOP TO  
MEET YOU!

YOU WANNA  
WALK THERE  
TOGETHER?

SURE!  
YES!

BUT.. WHERE  
ARE  
WE.. ?

SANDRA,  
YOU'RE  
WORRYING ME.

I'M SORRY,  
I THINK I'M  
JUST.. I'M..

HUNGRY?









NO. SORRY DAMN  
IT, THIS IS FALL-  
ING APART

SOMETHING  
ALWAYS  
HAPPENS.

SANDRA, LET'S JUST  
GO SOMEPLACE AND  
SIT DOWN, AND  
EAT, AND--

THIS  
WAS A  
BAD  
IDEA.

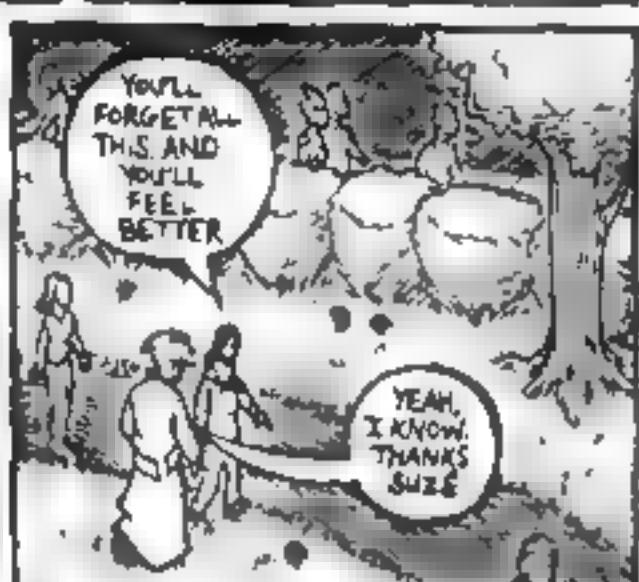
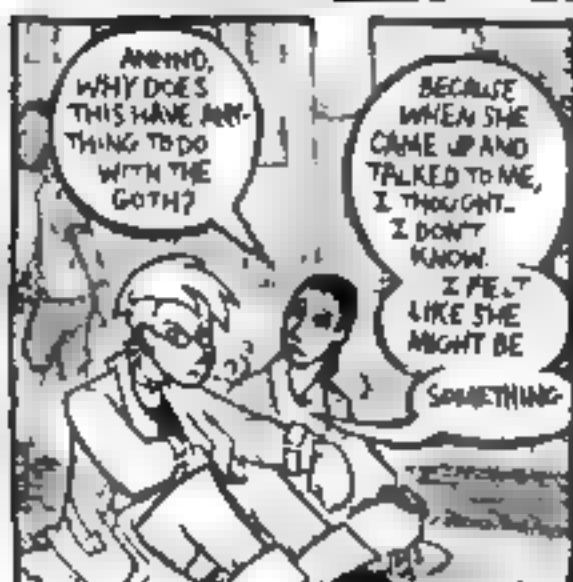
LISTEN, JEN, THANKS FOR  
TALKING. IT WAS GOOD FOR  
ME. BUT WE SHOULDN'T  
TALK ANYMORE.

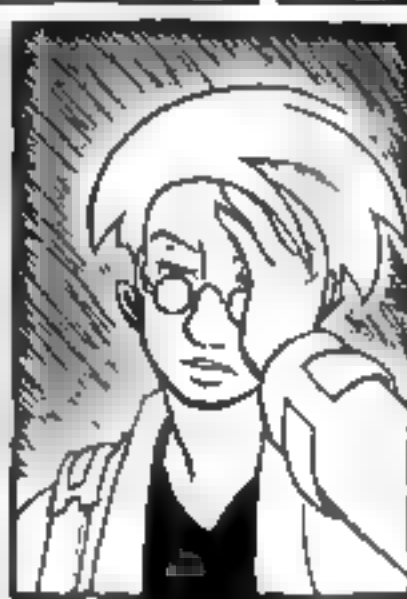
BUT--

GO TO YOUR  
REAL FRIENDS,  
ALRIGHT?

STAY IN THE REAL WORLD.

AND SHE  
JUST WALKS  
AWAY.


















WE APPRECIATE THE IRONY  
CRUEL THOUGH IT IS THAT  
JEN HERSELF HAS BECOME  
ONE OF THIS TOWN'S MYST-  
ERIES ONE THAT WE'VE  
BECOME PERSONALLY  
INVOLVED IN OUR CLASS-  
MATES AND US WAIT  
ANXIOUSLY FOR A  
RESOLUTION.

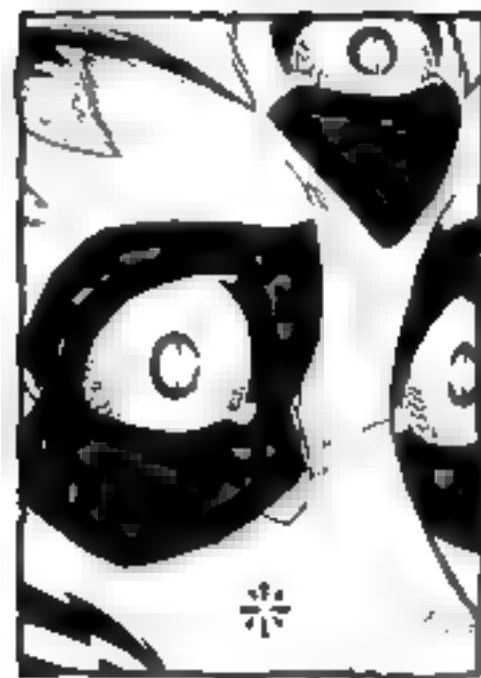


AND WITH  
GREATER ANXIETY  
CONSIDER THAT  
THERE MIGHT NOT BE  
A RESOLUTION WEEKS  
OF SEARCHING HAVE  
PROVIDED NO CLUES IF  
THERE WAS A TRAIL, IT'S  
BEGIN TO GROW COLD  
THIS IS WHEN MYSTRIES  
ARE TAKEN SERIOUSLY  
WHEN ALL WE CAN DO  
IS GUESS AT  
SOMETHING  
IMPORTANT



AND LIKE A TWIST END-  
ING THE IRONY RUNS  
EVEN DEEPER THE NIGHT  
SHE DISAPPEARED JEN  
WAS CARRYING EVERY-  
THING WE'D FILMED  
INCLUDING SOUNDS OF  
THE DEVIL OUR TOWN  
HAS BEEN  
CAPTIVATED  
WITH.

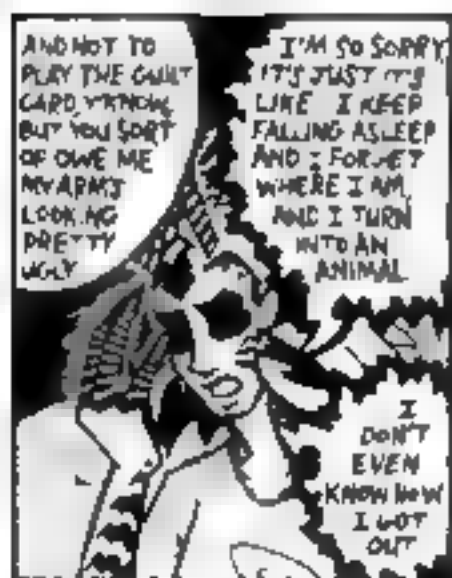
• WHICH  
WAS REALLY  
COOL. TAKE  
OUR WORD  
FOR IT

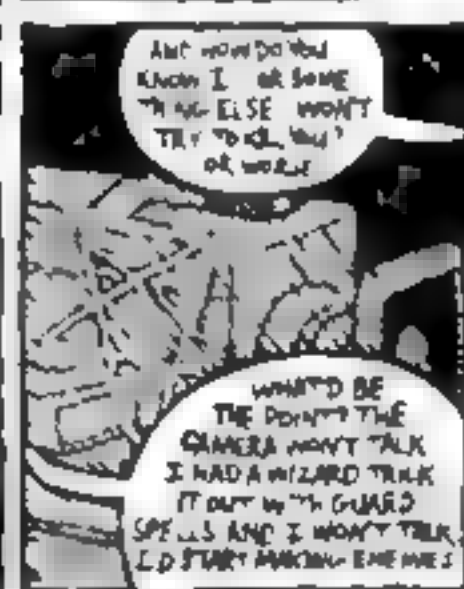
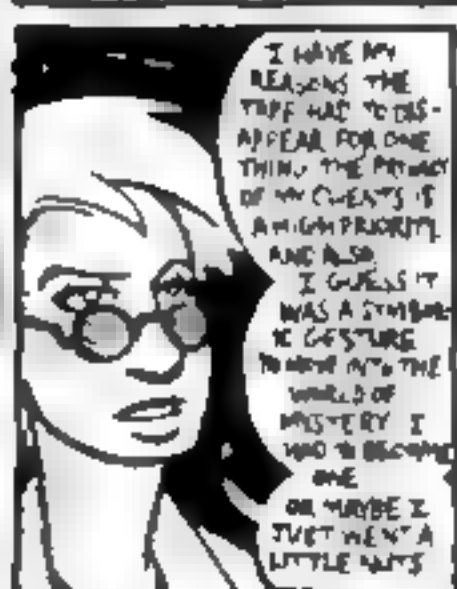
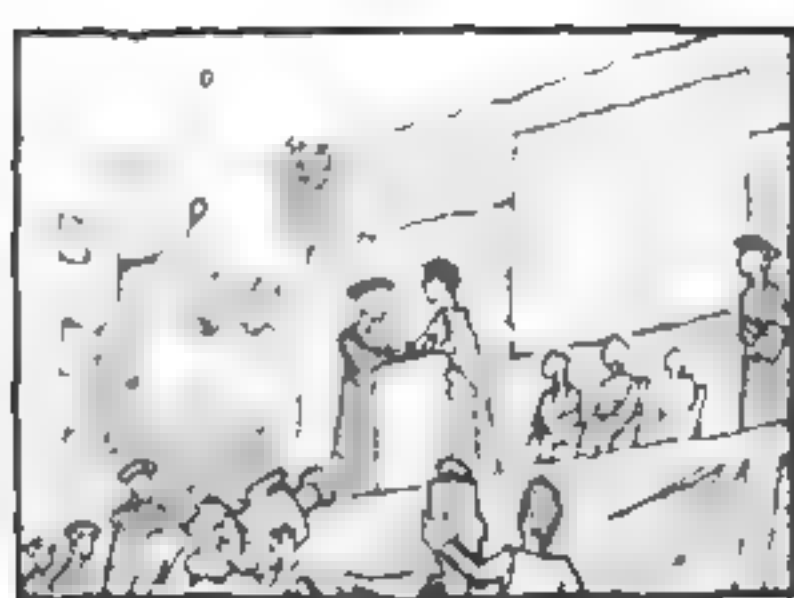


AND YET WITH ALL WE SAW AND HEARD WE  
ONLY GLANCED AT IT ALL WITH GLIB  
CURIOSITY WE WERE FRIENDS  
HAVING FUN

IF ANYTHING THIS HAS  
TAUGHT IS RESPECT  
THERE ARE THINGS IN  
THIS TOWN TO BE GEN-  
UINELY FRIGHTENED  
OF AND SO THERE MUST  
BE IN THE REST OF THE  
WORLD AS WE MOVE  
ON, AS WE GRADUATE  
THIS IS A LESSON  
WORTH  
REMEMBERING

AS FOR OUR FRIEND  
JEN WE CAN AT LEAST  
HOPE THAT AS SHE  
PASSES INTO MYSTERY  
HOWEVER LONG SHE'S  
THERE, PERHAPS SHE  
DID WHAT WE ONLY  
PLAYED AT AND  
ACTUALLY FOUND  
SOME ANSWERS.





Dear Diary. Wow  
What a crazy couple  
of months we had

It all started after our  
werewolf adventure  
Sandra had gone out  
and made friends with  
a girl named Jan



Which was good of  
course. She doesn't get  
out enough. Jan worked  
with a film crew it  
seems we've gained a  
reputation as a haunted  
house! But that's  
another story. Anyway,  
Sandra went to meet  
her again.



But she came back  
after a few hours, telling  
us that she'd been  
wandering around town  
in a daze. '(Daze? Daze?)'  
Jack guessed that Sandra's  
missing wing was  
driving her crazy, and  
that she was going through  
an episode like she had  
in some world, only not  
so bad.



Jack's gotten so smart  
with these things I'm so  
proud of him! But he  
said that she could get  
worse and that she  
should be locked in a  
room until she's not  
crazy anymore. Except  
he made it sound nicer  
than that. Or he  
should have.





After Jack had un-  
burned himself and  
Sandra settled down.  
we agreed that it wasn't  
really a bad idea after  
all Sandra spends most  
of her time indoors any  
way. So we cleared up  
her room and Jack  
set up a space for her



Poor poor Sandra Jack  
started bringing her these  
small boxes every day.  
He called them 'demon  
chow'. I don't know  
what it really was, but  
Sandra apparently  
couldn't keep it down. So  
then he started bringing  
plants which I don't  
get at all. Part of some  
healing ritual I suppose.  
How did Sandra feel so  
quickly last time?

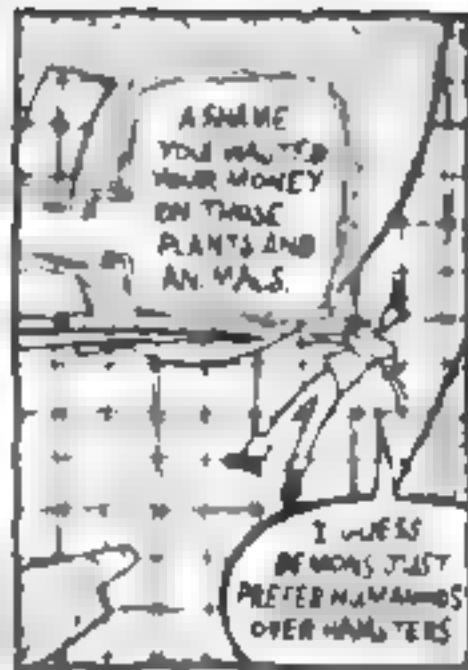
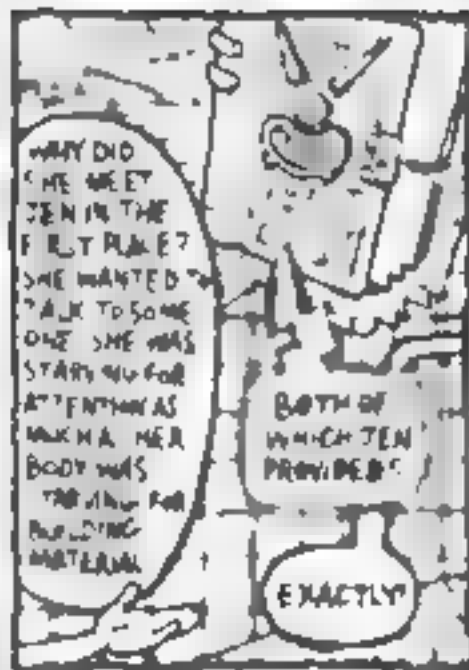
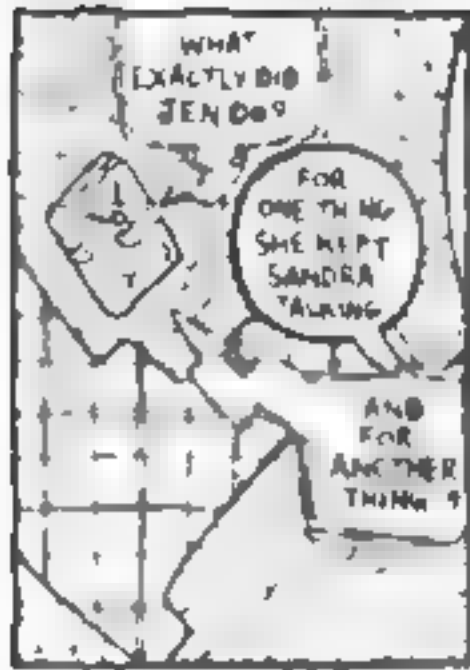


I tried speaking to her  
through the door (Jack  
said I shouldn't go in),  
but as time passed she  
got more and more  
outraged. So we lost track  
of time, and started  
talking about meeting  
Jen for coffee.



It was so sad and  
I didn't know what to  
do. Thank goodness for  
the boys and their  
comfort. Thank goodness  
it's all over now. Thank  
goodness for Jen.





BUT HOW  
DID JEN  
ENDURE  
ALL THAT  
FEED-  
ING DO  
JIM-  
SCATHED?

OH THAT WAS ONE  
OF MY BEST IDEAS  
EVER WHEN WE  
GOT HOME I  
NOTICED THAT  
SANDRA HAD  
FED ON JEN'S  
ARM AND I  
THOUGHT HEY  
I CAN HEAL  
THAT! AND THEN  
I THOUGHT SO  
WHY CAN'T  
SANDRA  
HAVE IT  
AGAIN?

YOU MEAN  
ALL THAT  
TIME

YEP FOR  
ALMOST A WEEK  
HANGING OUT IN  
SANDRA'S ROOM  
JEN INTERVIEWED  
ME WE HAD PIZZA,  
AND SANDRA HAD  
HER I'D HEAL UP  
THE ARM AND  
SANDRA WOULD  
DO IT AGAIN OVER  
AND OVER UNTIL  
SHE HAD WHAT  
SHE NEEDED  
OUT OF JEN'S  
FLESH


BY  
THE  
END HER  
ARM WAS  
SCARRED  
TO WHERE  
EVEN I  
COULDN'T  
FULLY  
HEAL  
IT.

BUT SHE  
SEEMED  
OKAY WITH  
T. WHAT  
A TROOPER  
SHE'LL  
SERVE ME  
WELL

AND WHAT OF SANDRA? SHE  
MUST KNOW NOW WHAT SHE  
DID ON SAM'S WORLD HOW  
IS SHE REACTING?

WELL

SHE'S  
BEEN STAY-  
ING IN HER  
ROOM AN  
AWFUL LOT



I THOUGHT  
THIS WAS ONE  
I SAW T ON THE  
INTERNET  
FASCINATING  
CREATURES,  
"C-CLASS  
DEMONS"  
LISTEN TO  
THIS

"THIS DEMON  
IS, IN ESSENCE,  
WELL, AN  
ESSENCE. A  
SP'RT, LIKE ALL  
DEMONS

"WHEN SUMMONED TO  
THE MORTAL PLANE IT WILL  
BEGIN ABSORBING LIVING  
MATERIAL FROM ITS  
SURROUNDINGS TO  
MAINTAIN A PHYSICAL  
BODY. HENCE ITS  
HARDLY DEATH  
INSATIABLE."  
PRETTY COOL,  
HMM?

"THESE  
BODIES ARE  
CHARACTERISED BY  
AN AURA OF COLD. FOR  
THEY ARE EVER FEEDING  
ON MICRO-ORGANISMS. FE

"THAT COLD IS  
THE CHILL  
OF DEATH."

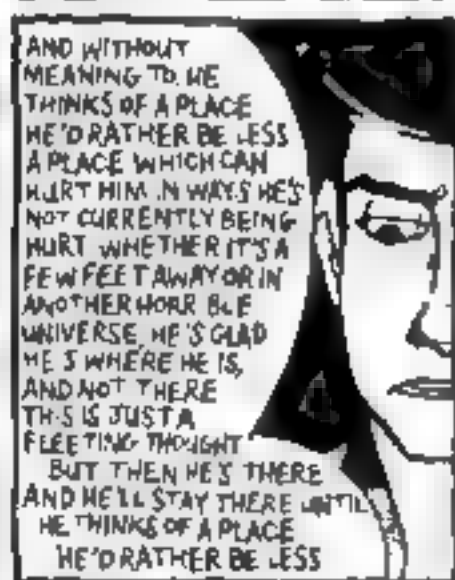
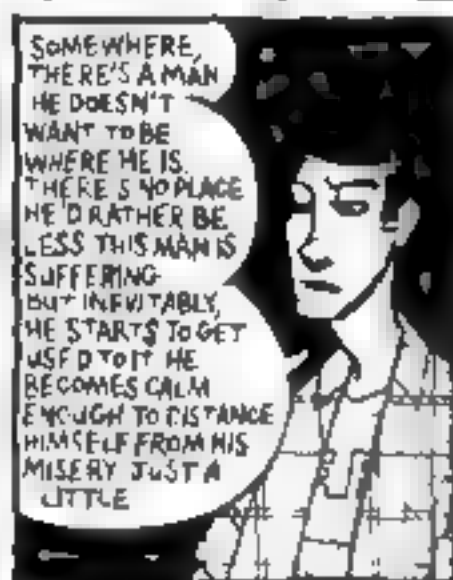
NOW YOU  
SHOULD LISTEN TO  
THIS BECAUSE THIS  
CONCERNS YOU. "IF THE  
BODY IS SERIOUSLY HURT,  
IT WILL DEMAND HIGHER  
LIFE FORMS TO REBUILD  
INNOCENT HELPLESS  
LIFE FORMS.

STOP

"THE DEMON WILL BECOME AN  
ABSOLUTE PSYCHOTIC UNHOLY  
TERROR. AN ANIMAL HUNTING  
AND MUTILATING BY SUCKING  
AND BENDING AND LEECHING  
AND EXSANGUINATING."

YOU KNOW I'VE  
ALWAYS LIKED THAT  
WORD EXSANGUINATE.  
I SO RARELY HAVE AN  
OPPORTUNITY TO USE IT  
IN A SENTENCE

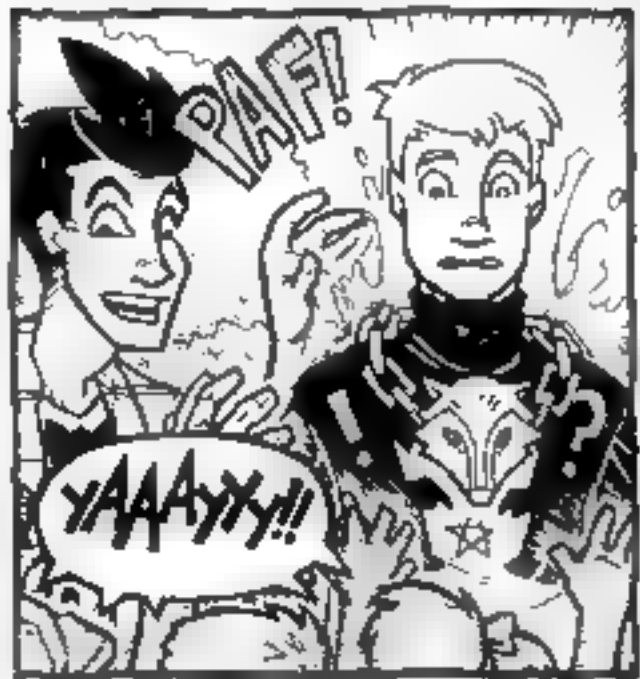
















I WAS SURPRISED TO  
GET YOUR CALL. HOW'D  
YOU GET MY NUMBER?


I HAVE WAYS YOU  
KNOW, YOU'RE THE  
ONLY MIKE IN  
TOWN

CAN WE JUST  
SKIP TO THE IMPOR-  
TANT STUFF? I'D  
LIKE TO KNOW  
WHAT'S GOING ON.



LOOK I'VE DONE A  
LOT OF THINKING,  
AND I .

I DON'T  
THINK I CAN  
TELL YOU WHAT'S  
GOING ON.  
I CAN'T LET YOU  
INTO MY LIFE  
I CAME HERE TO  
WRAP THIS UP



OH COME  
ON YOU CAN'T  
DO THAT  
TO ME  
WHAT  
I'VE SEEN  
I CAN'T LEAVE  
IT ALONE,  
SANDRA I  
HAVE TO KNOW


AND  
WHAT  
ABOUT  
ME?



WHAT DO  
MEAN? THIS  
IS ALL ABOUT  
YOU! YOU'RE  
AMAZING.  
YOU'RE


BUT  
WHAT  
AM I??



A black and white comic panel showing a man and a woman. The man is on the right, looking at the woman on the left. The woman has long dark hair and is looking back at him.


I DON'T KNOW  
WHAT YOU ARE  
THAT'S THE  
WHOLE  
POINT.

YOU KNOW  
ME YOU KNOW  
I'M NOT A  
MONSTER  
AND I'M  
GLAD.

A black and white comic panel showing a man from the chest up. He has dark hair and is looking directly at the viewer with a serious expression.


BUT I'M NOT HUMAN TO YOU  
EITHER! I'M JUST A DREAM  
A MYSTERY FOR YOU TO HUNT  
CAN YOU REALLY  
LOOK AT ME AND  
TELL ME YOU SEE  
ME AS A HUMAN  
BEING?

...

A black and white comic panel showing a man and a woman. The woman is on the left, looking at the man on the right. The man is looking down with a sad expression.

I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR YOUR  
FEELINGS ESPECIALLY WITH HOW  
I'VE ACTED BUT I CAN'T LIVE  
WITH YOU IF THAT'S ALL THERE  
IS NOT WITH HOW I  
MAY FEEL  
ABOUT  
YOU

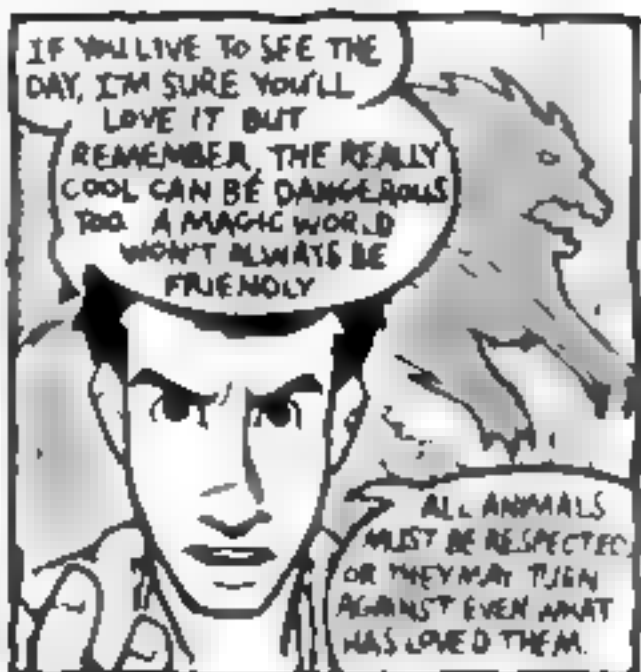
IT WOULD  
HURT TOO  
MUCH

A black and white comic panel showing a woman from the chest up. She has dark hair and is looking directly at the viewer with a determined expression.

I'M NOT JUST  
GOING TO GIVE  
UP -

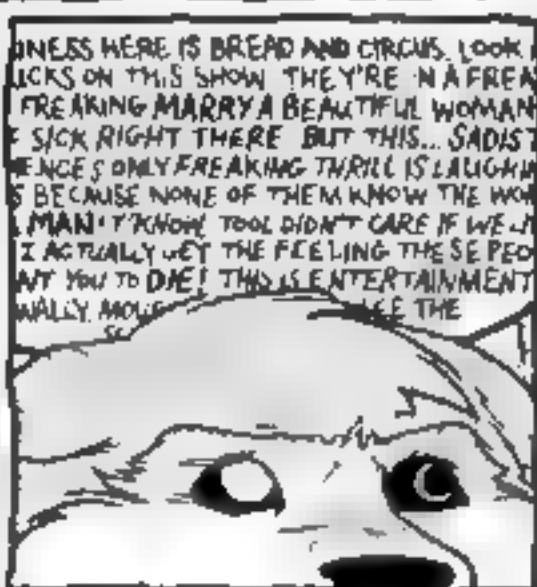
MIKE

I HURT  
THINGS  
BACK





HOWB  
E SE SCH  
CONTEST  
THAT'S KIND  
FREAKING A  
THE POOR S  
USED TO B  
ORDIED B  
WOULD  
HE



NESS HERE IS BREAD AND CIRCUS. LOOK  
ICKS ON THIS SHOW THEY'RE NA FREA  
FREAKING MARRY A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN  
SICK RIGHT THERE BUT THIS... SADIS  
ENCE'S ONLY FREAKING THRILL IS LAUGHIN  
S BECAUSE NONE OF THEM KNOW THE WOM  
MAN I KNOW TOOL DIDNT CARE IF WE LI  
I ACTUALLY GET THE FEELING THESE PED  
NT YOU TO DIE! THIS IS ENTERTAINMENT  
WALLY ABOVE SC

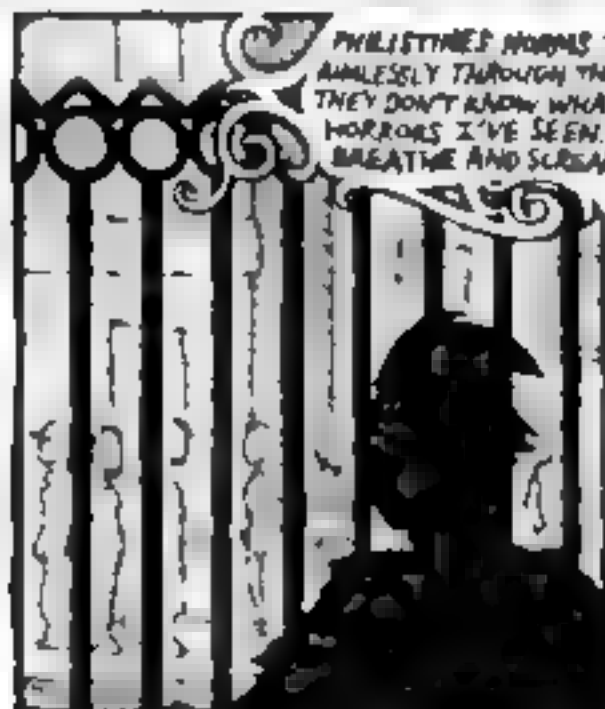
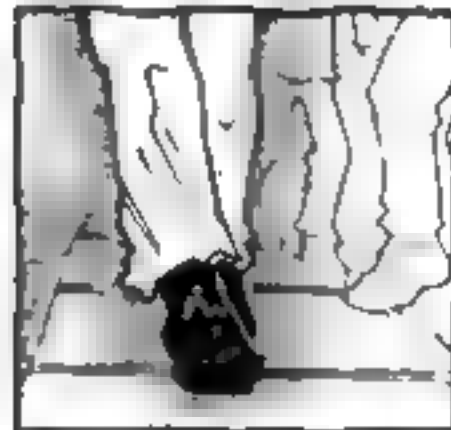


LOOKT  
ME GUYS  
I'M A  
GOTH!

SIPP

REFRESH







Y'KNOW I SHOULD'VE  
ASKED JACK IF HE MINDED  
BEFORE CHANGING  
MY HAIR

WHY  
WOULD  
HE  
MIND?


NEVERMIND.  
SO DO YOU THINK  
THESE THINGS'RE  
WORKING? I THINK  
THEY'RE WORKING. NO  
ONE CAN HEAR YOU  
TALKING BUT ME!  
ISN'T THAT  
NEAT??

I--

IT'S  
NEAT!  
ENCHANTED  
NECKLACES..  
JACK'S GOT-  
TEN SO GOOD  
AT THIS I'M  
GONNA HAVE  
HIM ENCHANT  
MY ENTIRE  
WARDROBE  
NEXT!

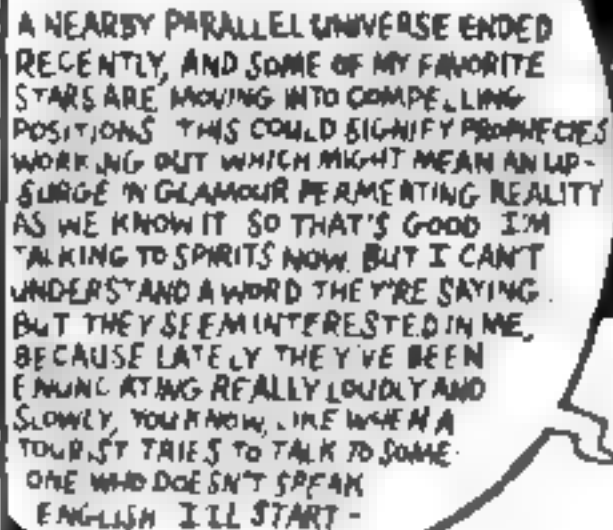
ARE YOU  
SURE THAT  
THEY'RE  
WORKING?  
PEOPLE ARE  
STARING

WELL,  
OF COURSE!  
SEEING A REAL  
GOTH IS BLOWING  
THEIR MINDS




SO WHAT DO  
YOU THINK?

I THINK  
THE SIGNS  
ARE PROM-  
ISING



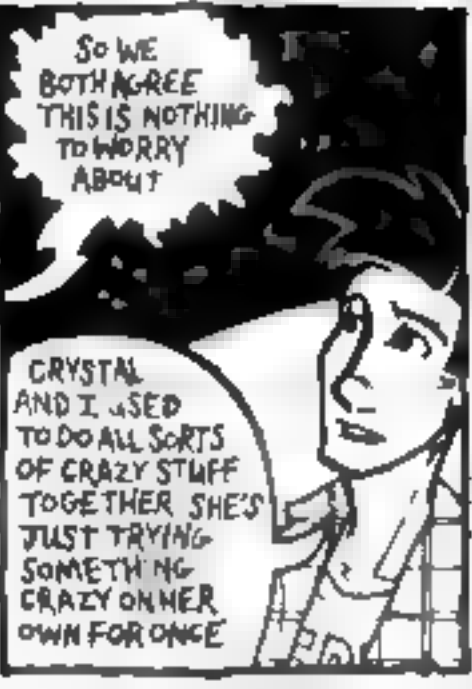
A NEARBY PARALLEL UNIVERSE ENDED  
RECENTLY, AND SOME OF MY FAVORITE  
STARS ARE MOVING INTO COMPELLING  
POSITIONS. THIS COULD SIGNIFY PROPHECIES  
WORKING OUT WHICH MIGHT MEAN AN UP-  
SURGE IN GLAMOUR PERMEATING REALITY  
AS WE KNOW IT. SO THAT'S GOOD. I'M  
TALKING TO SPIRITS NOW, BUT I CAN'T  
UNDERSTAND A WORD THEY'RE SAYING.  
BUT THEY SEEM INTERESTED IN ME,  
BECAUSE LATELY THEY'VE BEEN  
ENUNCIATING REALLY LOUDLY AND  
SLOWLY, YOU KNOW, LIKE WHEN A  
TOURIST TRIES TO TALK TO SOME-  
ONE WHO DOESN'T SPEAK  
ENGLISH. I'LL START -



OH YOU MEANT ABOUT  
CRYSTAL YEAH, SHE'LL  
BE FINE


SHOWOFF





SO WE BOTH AGREE  
THIS IS NOTHING  
TO WORRY  
ABOUT


CRYSTAL  
AND I USED  
TO DO ALL SORTS  
OF CRAZY STUFF  
TOGETHER. SHE'S  
JUST TRYING  
SOMETHING  
CRAZY ON HER  
OWN FOR ONCE



I REMEMBER  
THE "UFO  
BARBEQUE"

THE  
TIME I  
TRIED TO  
GROW A  
THIRD  
ARM!


YEAH DO  
YOU THINK SHE  
MISSES ALL THAT?



I MISS IT SOME-  
TIMES BUT WE'VE  
GROWN WORLDS  
APART.

ALL OF US  
HAVE EACH  
PERSON IN THIS  
HOUSE LIVES A LIFE  
UNIQUE TO THEM  
THAT'S WHAT MAKES  
OUR FRIENDSHIPS  
GREAT, THAT WE CAN  
REACH ACROSS WHAT  
DIVIDES US TO GIVE  
EACH OTHER  
STRENGTH

BUT THE  
DIVIDE  
REMAINS

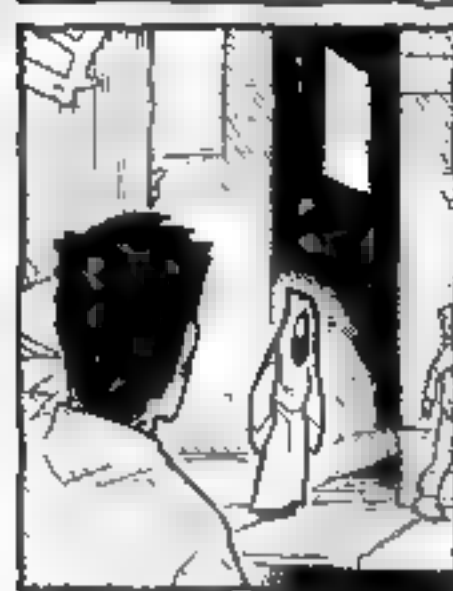


HARD TO BELIEVE  
WE USED TO BE JUST  
THREE MERE MORTALS  
UNDER THE SAME  
ROOF.

WE'RE  
A REAL  
ZOO.





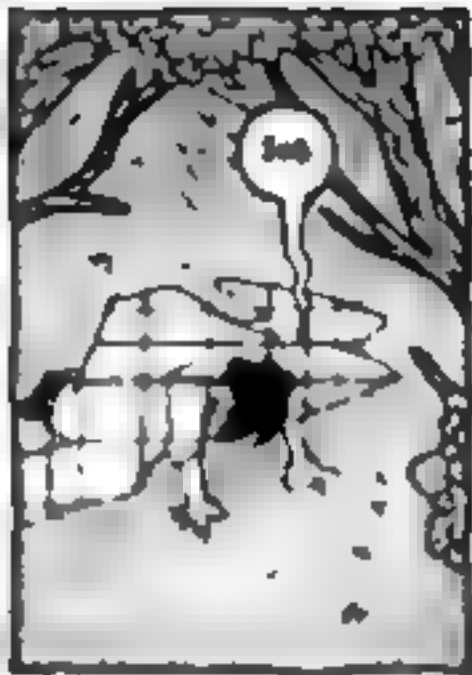






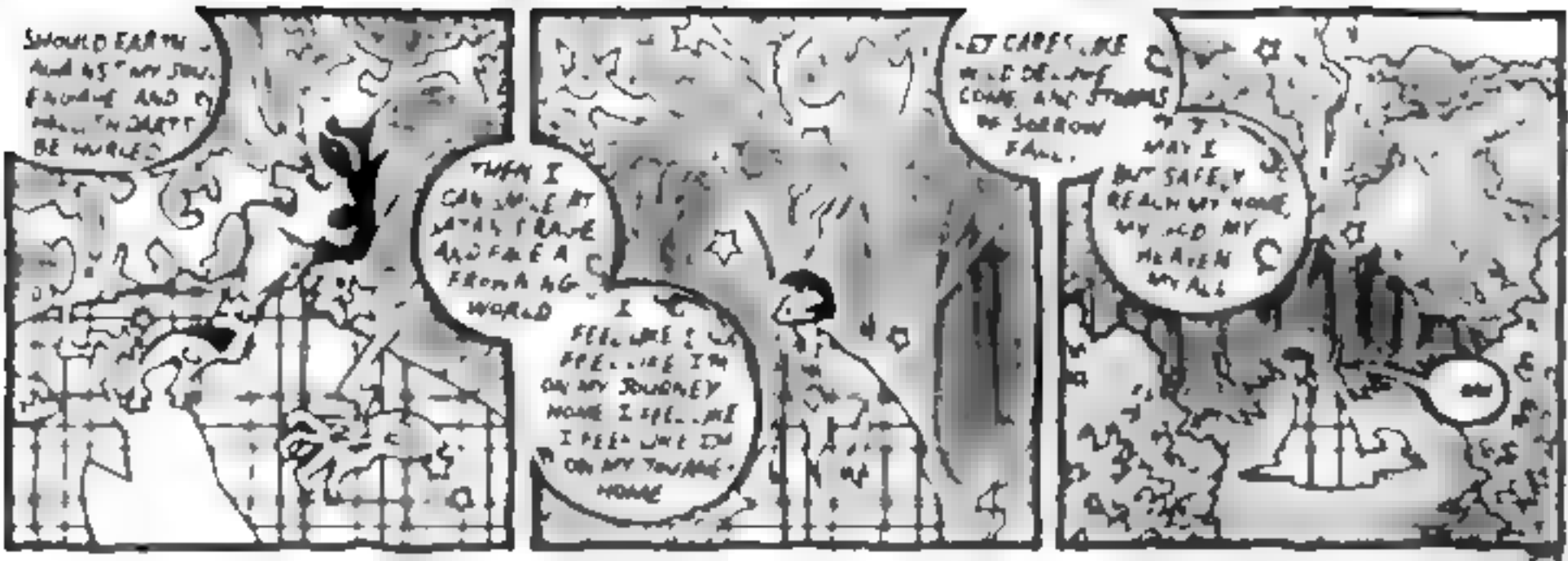












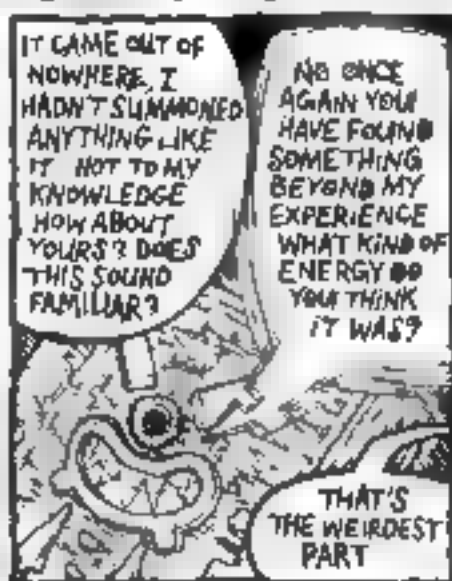
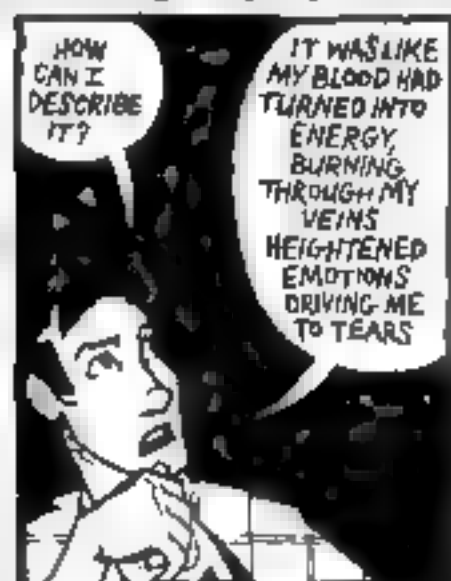
SHOULD EARTH  
AND AS MY SON  
FADING AND  
MAYN DARTT  
BE WURLED

THEN I  
CAN LIVE AT  
LAST I HAVE  
A DREAM  
FROM A  
WORLD

I  
FEEL LIKE I  
FEEL LIKE I'M  
ON MY JOURNEY  
HOME I FEEL LIKE  
I FEEL LIKE I'M  
ON MY JOURNEY  
HOME

LET CARES, WE  
WILL DEAR  
COME AND STORMS  
OF SORROW  
FALL

MAY I  
BE SAFELY  
REACH MY HOME,  
MY AND MY  
HEAVEN  
MY ALL



WOW.  
JUST, WOW  
DID NOT  
SEE THAT  
COMING.

WELL, WHAT DO YOU  
EXPECT? SHE'S A GROWN  
WOMAN. GROWN WOMEN  
TEND TO DO THAT SORT  
OF THING.

YOU DON'T  
COUNT YOU'RE  
NOT A 'WOMAN'  
IN THE  
TRADITIONAL  
SENSE

I WANT TO CURL UP  
AND PULL THE COVERS  
AROUND ME BUT I'M  
TOO SHARP I RIP  
EVERYTHING.

I HATE ALWAYS  
FEELING SORRY  
FOR MYSELF  
WHY CAN'T I  
STOP?  
WHAT'S MAKING  
IT WORSE?

MAYBE IT'S JUST  
ACCEPTANCE, FINALLY  
SETTLING IN SOME-  
TIMES IT'S HEALTHIER  
TO JUST LET HOPE DIE

THIS IS WHO I  
AM WHAT I AM  
I NEED TO START  
MAKING MY  
LIFE AROUND  
THIS IF I CAN

MOM, I'M  
A DEMON

THAT DOESN'T  
MATTER, BE-  
CAUSE BENEATH  
YOUR OUTWARD  
APPEARANCE  
YOU'RE STILL MY  
DAUGHTER AND  
I LOVE YOU UN-  
CONDITIONALLY  
NO MATTER  
WHAT YOU  
LOOK  
LIKE

MOM, I'M  
A DEMON.

THIS IS WHY  
YOU MISSED  
CHRISTMAS WITH  
US? I GUESS THE  
NIPPLE RING HAD  
GOTTEN BORING.  
DID JACK  
DO THIS?

MOM, I'M  
A DEMON.

OH MY  
GOD!!

OF COURSE,  
THAT'S A  
PRETTY  
BIG 'IF'

MaryMcRockshard 12:12:00

MaryMcRockshard Hello? Anybody there?

MaryMcRockshard Hello?

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit has logged in

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit Yo

MaryMcRockshard GTCR I knew you'd be here you're so dependable

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit If you knew I'd be here, why all the exclamation marks?

MaryMcRockshard -sigh- you never let anyone off easy, do you?

anyone off easy, do you?

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit No, never I used to coddle people for a living until I couldn't afford to anymore I found I lost my taste for it Like a reformed druggie.

MaryMcRockshard Jm. Oh kayyy

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit Of course where you come from things were different Coddling was a luxury It was a hard time and place

MaryMcRockshard I could argue that in hard times you need coddling all the more.

MaryMcRockshard Maybe if hard times had more coddling, they'd soften up a bit

had more coddling, they'd soften up a bit

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit Maybe. I brought a lot of joy But sometimes I think I did it more for myself than for my audience Now let's stop saying "coddle" it's making my stomach churn

MaryMcRockshard: "Hard time and place" "For a living" "audience" say this is pertaining to your past We're finally getting somewhere

MaryMcRockshard: Were you an actor??

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit Clever girl! Assuming you are indeed a woman Yes, I was an actor.

MaryMcRockshard Wow Stage, TV or ?

MaryMcRockshard Wow! Stage TV or

MaryMcRockshard Yello. ?

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit Tv. I was on TV.

MaryMcRockshard Cool. Have I heard of you? Seen you? Hey, I might already know what you look like then. Neat.

MaryMcRockshard So??

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit Hm

MaryMcRockshard You're hesitating. Why?

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit My God, you're perceptive

you're perceptive

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit It was a time of my life I feel I've abandoned. Not really by choice, but still definitively so. I prefer to think I've moved on.

MaryMcRockshard Well can you AT LEAST give me a hint?? We've been chatting for weeks. this is the first concrete info I've got on you! Pleeeeeassssee??

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit You know how weird it would sound to enunciate what you just wrote?

MaryMcRockshard gr==> /

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit Okay okay. just trying to get a rise. And succeeding.

just trying to get a rise. And succeeding

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit But you asked nicely so give me a minute to think

MaryMcRockshard Minute given.

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit From what I can tell, my show had a nationwide distribution and a fair run. I'd say with some certainty that you've seen my face somewhere

MaryMcRockshard Are you determined to speak in riddles

MaryMcRockshard: Wait "from what you can tell?" How can you not tell? How?? Hooowwwwwweee??

modwwwweee???

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit Stop that listen, let's just leave it that there are things about me that would be... complicated for you to know.

MaryMcRockshard What?? Come on. GTCR You said you open up to me more than anyone. But you haven't really told me anything about yourself. I don't even know what you look like.

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit I know this'll simply make you more curious, but believe me when I say that just seeing me could blow your mind and change your view of reality.

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit Seriously

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit Seriously

MaryMcRockshard Oh, I see. You're Cthulhu.

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit No I'm not. I hear my housemate mention that name from time to time. Who is he? A rock star?

MaryMcRockshard No! He's a monster who's supposed to be so "alien" and horrible, that just to look at him drives you nuts forever.

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit Really? Or is he a fictional character?

MaryMcRockshard Um...

MaryMcRockshard Um...

MaryMcRockshard Are you actually waiting for an answer on that?

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit Sure Hell. I don't know what monsters are real and which aren't. It's really hard to tell around here.

MaryMcRockshard I can't tell if you're being sarcastic or not.

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit Seriously. I can't swing a cat without hitting some kind of "monster." If someone tells me they've seen one, I'm inclined to believe them.

MaryMcRockshard Where do you live? Sunnydale, California?

Sunnydale, California?

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit: I get that reference. Good show.

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit: My life seems to be the textbook case of fiction and reality blurring.

MaryMcRockshard: What monsters have you seen?

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit: We said too much. Something about you just turns me into a chatterbox. We should move on.

MaryMcRockshard: Oh COME ON!

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit: No need to shout. Talk too much, that's all.

Shout. Talk too much, that's all.

MaryMcRockshard: Well, what else are we going to talk about? It was just getting good.

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit: Come on, I'm not interesting. Let's talk about you!

MaryMcRockshard: Me? Why?

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit: Why not? I don't know much about you either, and like you said, we've been chatting for weeks.

MaryMcRockshard: Okay, but I expect some hard data from you in return.

MaryMcRockshard: As you know, my family is quite wealthy.

Family is quite wealthy.

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit: I didn't know that.

MaryMcRockshard: Didn't I mention that before?

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit: Maybe I probably forgot.

MaryMcRockshard: See, that's what I love about you, GTCR. Mysteriousness aside, you're so honest. No BS from you. You remind me of my family in that way.

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit: Wealthy, and not prone to BS. Sounds like a pretty solid family to be born into.



can't be done.

**MaryMcRockshard** Yeah. Like. It's totally out in the open that my parents like my brother more than me

**GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit** Out of courtesy, I'd like to convey an awkward pause

**MaryMcRockshard** It's better than it sounds, they just made it clear that they wanted a boy more and they didn't wanna jerk me around

**GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit** That's still sounding pretty sad.

**MaryMcRockshard** Well I won't say it's not hard on the ego every once in a while

not hard on the ego every once in a while

**GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit** I am sorry about that Mary.

**MaryMcRockshard** It's okay. it's cool I'm a pretty solitary person by nature so having less attention suits me

**MaryMcRockshard** My parents are cool we have a lot of respect My brother's at Cambridge He says it kind of sucks. Now you

**GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit** Now me what?

**MaryMcRockshard** I talked about myself, now you talk about yourself fair's fair We don't have to talk about monsters

don't have to talk about monsters

**MaryMcRockshard** In fact, since we're on th subject tell me about your parents. It's for tat

**GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit** Well, you said we didn't have to talk about monsters

**MaryMcRockshard** What?

**MaryMcRockshard** Oh. Hard childhood?

**GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit** I dunno. I'm probably too hard on them I held them to certain idealistic expectations. Actually, I did that for everything. It was a habit I took too long growing out of

**MaryMcRockshard** Why?

MaryMcRockshard: Why?

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit: I was stupid plain and simple. Your parents tell you stories where things are always happy and then you notice they aren't always happy. Most kids figure out that the stories are fiction, that the world they live in just isn't happy all the time. But I came to think that things really were like that, really happy and funny and cute, and I blinded myself to genuine suffering. Real pain didn't happen in my little world.

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit: I never forgave Mom and Dad for not having the guts to tell me otherwise.

MaryMcRockshard: Yeah, that was pretty stupid.

pretty stupid.

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit: You can't tell, but I am laughing my fuzzy ass off right now.

MaryMcRockshard: Fuzzy?

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit: Never mind. I'm laughing out loud, that's all.

MaryMcRockshard: There's a Net term for that, it's "LOL."

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit: Oh, that's what that means. I guess Internet types can't be bothered to type whole words.

MaryMcRockshard: Sigh. Never let anyone off easy.

anyone off easy.

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit: Says Ms. "One Spelling Error Per Page." Listen, I have to go. I can hear the early risers.

MaryMcRockshard: Okay, see you same bat-time, same Bat-channel. Glad you caught my spelling errors, they were intentional. Hey - If your life is fiction blurring with reality, does that mean your world really will turn all happy one day?

GiantTalkingCartoonRabbit has logged out.

MaryMcRockshard: Fine, be that way. Good night Cthulhu.

MaryMcRockshard has logged out.





MORN-  
ING

IT'S  
AFTER-  
NOON JACK.  
WHAT'VE YOU  
BEEN  
DOING?

WAIT GOD I  
DON'T WANT  
TO KNOW.

GIVE  
ME A  
BREAK! I WAS  
JUST JIVING  
WITH THE MAG.

THE-? OH! UH.  
ARE THERE  
MORE, NOW?

A FEW  
NOWHERE  
NEAR AS  
MANY AS  
BEFORE, BUT  
WHY DO  
YOU ASK?

WELL IT'S A BIG PART  
OF YOUR LIFE ISNT IT?  
WHY WOULDN'T  
I ASK?

'CAUSE  
WHEN WE  
TALK ABOUT MY  
PERSONAL LIFE  
USUALLY YOU SAY YOU  
DON'T WANT TO KNOW

WHAT'S  
WRONG WITH  
ME LATELY?

AM I GET-  
TING NOSTALGIC  
OR SOMETHING  
STUPID LIKE THAT?

I DON'T WANT TO BE  
NOSTALGIC I ALMOST  
DIED TRYING TO LIVE  
IN THE PAST.

I NEED TO  
LIVE IN THE  
PRESENT, AND  
LOOK TO THE  
FUTURE  
BUT...

BUT  
WHAT DOES  
THAT MEAN?  
WHAT'S MY  
FUTURE  
HERE?

WELL WE'RE ABOUT  
DUE FOR ANOTHER  
ADVENTURE, I  
I BET

I  
only

I JUST  
RESPECT YOUR  
PRIVACY IT'S  
WHAT YOU DO  
IN PRIVATE  
THAT I DON'T  
RESPECT.

OR WHAT  
YOU USED  
TO DO. I  
MEAN.  
OH, YOU  
KNOW.



I SOMETIMES FORGET  
THAT YOU'RE NOT A  
FULL-TIME PERVERT  
ANYMORE

I'M  
NOT?

I DO  
RESPECT  
WHAT YOU  
DO NOW,  
JACK AND  
WHAT YOU'VE  
BEEN  
THROUGH



ACTUALLY I'M SUR-  
PRISED WE HAVEN'T  
TALKED ABOUT IT  
MORE SUCH A  
TERRIBLE  
TRAGEDY...

BUT I  
ONLY SAW IT  
VAGUELY LIKE  
IN A DREAM  
I GUESS THEN  
IT'S HARDER  
FOR ME TO FEEL  
LIKE IT REALLY  
HAPPENED.



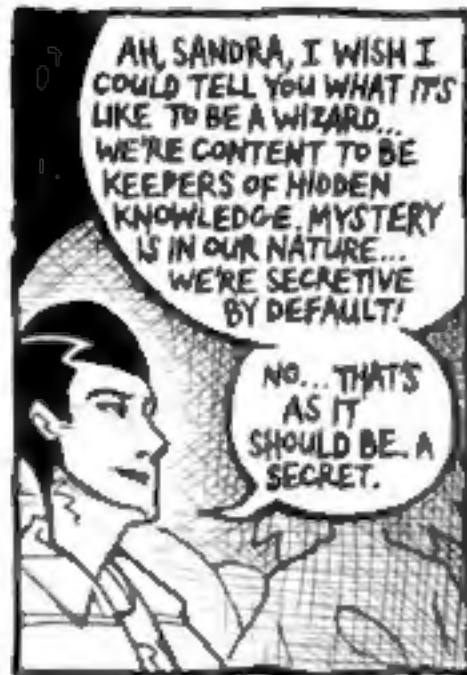
THE AFFAIRS OF WIZARDS  
ARE HARD FOR MUNDANE  
CONSCIOUSNESS TO GRASP SO  
THEY TEND TO STAY OUTSIDE  
OF COMMON KNOWLEDGE  
MOSTLY.

MOSTLY?









UH...

UHHHGH.  
OW. OW.  
CRAP.

OH...  
OKAY.

HERE I...  
HERE I AM.  
I'M BLINDFOLDED  
RIGHT? HATE IT  
WHEN I CAN'T  
SEE. NASTY  
SURPRISES.

PROB-  
ABLY TIED  
TO A CHAIR.  
...YEAH,  
TIED TO A  
CHAIR.

AND  
YOU'RE...  
WALKING  
AROUND ME...  
SLOWLY.  
PROFESSOR  
BROAD SOME-  
THING?

COME  
ON, I  
KNOW  
YOU'RE  
THERE.  
START  
TALKING  
TO ME.

HOW  
DID YOU  
KNOW I  
WAS HERE?

BIG,  
SENSITIVE  
EARS, AND A  
QUIET  
ACCEPTANCE  
OF IN-  
EVITABLE  
CLICHÉ.

